REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully considered.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, and 9 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Raychaudhuri (4,774,707). Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Raychaudhuri in view of Prieto, Jr. et al., (6,381,228 B1). Claims 7, 8, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Raychaudhuri.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been herein amended to more clearly define the present invention.

Raychaudhuri teaches a communication system by which a number of Earth stations communicate with each other by way of a transmission path including a transponder at an Earth satellite. In order to prevent transmitter-receivers in the Earth station from receiving erroneously a data packet, the communication system is arranged so that the transmitter-receiver does not receive data packets from a plurality of other transmitter-receivers simultaneously.

More specifically, one transmitter-receiver transmits a reservation request packet to all other transmitter-receivers before transmitting a message data packet. The reservation packet includes the length of the message data packet or time (Di) required for transmitting the message data packet. When the reservation request packet is received without collision with another reservation request packet by all transmitter-receivers, the transmitter-receiver which transmits the reservation request packet, transmits a message data packet. All transmitter-receivers other

than that one which transmits the reservation request packet inhibits transmitting their own packets for the time (Di).

Even if Raychaudhuri has something resembling the claimed invention, there are the following substantial differences between Raychaudhuri and the claimed invention.

(1) Unlike Raychaudhuri, the claimed invention does not use a special packet such as a reservation request packet. The claimed invention adds timing information as to the timing of transmitting a next frame to a current frame.

(2) Raychaudhuri notifies other transmitter-receivers of the length of a message data packet or time (Di) required for transmitting the message data packet. But, unlike Raychaudhuri, the claimed invention notifies other terminals of transmitting time of a next frame.

(3) Although the Examiner alleges that Fig. 3 of Raychaudhuri teaches a timing reservation management table, as in claims 6 and 9 of the present invention, Fig. 3 is not a table, but a timing chart.

(4) Raychaudhuri does not teach the features of claims 7 and 12 that are as follows:

reserving timing for transmitting a next frame from its own terminal in the timing reservation management table;

using the time measured by a timer as an address of the table; and

recording type of the reservation such as "frame transmission by other terminals", "frame transmission by its own terminal" and "vacant" in the storage portion of the table.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 1-4, 9, 10 and 7, 8, 12, and 13 are patentably distinguishable over Raychaudhuri and these claims should be allowed.

Referring now to rejection of dependent claims 5 and 11 over Raychaudhuri in view of Prieto, the Examiner admits that Raychaudhuri does not disclose dividing data into a former data having a prescribed size and a latter data when the size of said data is larger than said prescribed size; determining said timing information for a latter frame containing said latter data on the basis of the time required for transmitting a former frame containing said former data; and regarding said latter frame as a next frame and adding said timing information for said latter frame to said former frame, but referred to column 7, lines 18-25, of Prieto as teaching such features.

As disclosed by Prieto, "It should be noted that if the local UET (user Earth terminal) requires more bandwidth resources than was originally requested, it may piggyback a request message to the controller as part of the data stream that has already been allocated. In other words, instead of sending a new RQM (reservation query message) for additional data transfer, the UET may transmit the RQM as part of the reserve data transfer to reserve a future available non-contentious reservation time slot."

But, the above disclosure of Prieto neither shows nor suggests the features of claims 5 and 11 of the present invention that are as follows:

dividing data into a former data having a prescribed size and a latter data when the size of said data larger than said prescribe size;

determining said timing information for a latter frame containing said latter data on the basis of the time required for transmitting a former frame containing said former data; and

regarding said latter frame as a next frame and adding said timing information for said latter frame to said former frame.
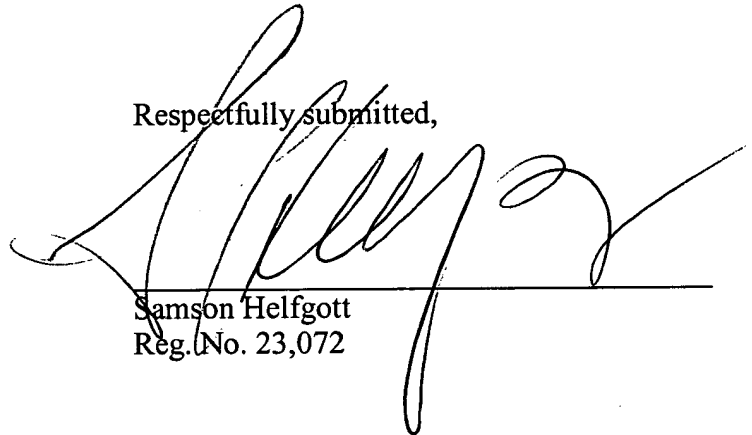
Thus, the combination of Raychaudhuri with Prieto would not provide a skilled artisan with any information that could lead him or her to the subject matter of claims 5 and 11.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 and 7-13 are allowable over the art.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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